

Spotted Sandpiper removing its Young.—A clearly observed case of the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) removing its young by flight recently came under my notice, and I place it upon record, as such instances are rarely seen, though they are, perhaps, of tolerably frequent occurrence, as in the case of the Woodcock.

Last summer, in the month of July, I frequently landed on a little rocky islet near the head of the Saguenay River, shortly after it issues from Lake St. John. Each time a Spotted Sandpiper showed much concern for her young, which were often seen running about and were a few days old. On one of these occasions, the mother ran ahead of me to a point of rocks near which I stopped to fish. A few moments later she flew, circling in the usual manner, and as she passed in front of me and within a few feet, I saw one of the young beneath her body, apparently clasped by her thighs; its head was directed forward, somewhat outstretched, and was seen with perfect distinctness. The parent's legs were apparently hanging down as she flew, though I am not positive that what I saw were not the legs of the young. The mother was in sight for about sixty yards, flying heavily and silently, and landed on a large island, though I could not see her at the moment of alighting.—J. C. MERRILL, *Washington, D. C.*

The 1897 Migration of the Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus*) and the Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) in Massachusetts.—Were it not for the reason that I desire to keep up the continuity of my migrating record on these birds, I should scarcely consider the data I have for this season worth recording. Up to August 22, no Golden Plovers or Eskimo Curlews had been observed at Nantucket or adjacent islands. On this date the wind was southwest, with rain commencing at 9.30 o'clock A. M., accompanied at intervals with lightning. I drove all over the western plover grounds but did not see any birds. I was informed that a flock of thirty Golden Plovers had been seen there later in the day. The wind finally came from the northeast and in the evening two or three persons informed me that they had heard the birds passing over the tower. Although on the alert, I did not hear any. Again, after 10.30 at night, a good many birds were reported to have been heard from several points as they passed over head, but none stopped. At Chatham, Cape Cod, Mass., on this same date (August 22), the first Golden Plovers (four) of the season, as far as I know, were shot, and many others were noted as they passed during the day, on migration. This was the *first* movement going south this season.

I again drove all over the western grounds on Nantucket August 23, seeing four Golden Plovers, flying towards the west; later in the day two others were noted. On the 24th, I am informed, three flocks of Plovers were observed at the westward, one of twenty-five, one of fifteen, and one of thirty, the numbers being estimated. A small flock of six Plovers was also observed at Tuckernuck Island. The wind was easterly on this

date, and it rained at intervals from six o'clock A. M. until twelve o'clock noon, at which time the wind changed to southwest and the weather cleared.

One small flock of eight Eskimo Curlews (the only ones noted here for the entire season) was seen well up in the air, flying on migration, headed towards the west. No birds stopped on the islands, and none were killed.

On the afternoon of August 27, a flock of twelve Plovers was seen, and on the 29th, eleven Plovers were domiciled in a certain protected field on the Kimball farm. On September 17, five Plovers were noted at the western end of Nantucket. The ground on the island this season is in poorer condition than usual, owing to the wet weather, which has enabled the grass and weeds to grow profusely; in addition to this, there has been no ground burned off this year.

I made inquiries several times in the Boston markets in order to ascertain if any of the above birds had been sent in from other localities, but could hear of none. Personally, I have not shot any. It is doubtful if over twelve Plovers have been taken during the entire season on Nantucket and adjoining islands, and not an Eskimo Curlew.

I can but regard with solicitude the killing of these birds in such immense numbers, as also the Bartramian Sandpipers, as they pass northward on migration through the Mississippi Valley in the *spring* on their way to their breeding grounds; many of the females having eggs quite well developed in their ovaries at the time. This has been going on for a number of years. (I called attention to it in *Auk*, Vol. VIII, p. 24, January, 1891.) How long can it continue? It has been several years since any considerable numbers of these birds have landed on the Atlantic seaboard during August or September. I believe the danger line has been passed long since. Protection is generally the laggard in the race. Our Western Associates should look to this matter and endeavor to put a stop to such annihilation if possible.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

The Turkey Vulture in Connecticut.—While out driving in Old Lyme, Conn., August 31, I was much surprised to note a Turkey Buzzard (*Cathartes aura*) in company with a Red-shouldered Hawk flying around a small patch of woods. This is the first one I have seen so far north as Connecticut.—ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY, *Lyme, Conn.*

A Black Vulture near Quebec, Canada.—On the 28th of October last a Black Vulture (*Catharista atrata*) was killed on the beach at Beauport, about six miles from Quebec; the bird was shot as it was flying towards a carrion. The man who secured the bird thought he had shot a young Eagle, but on seeing its black and unfeathered head and upper neck, I ascertained it was a Black Vulture. This is, I believe, the first record of a bird of this species being found so far north. It was an adult male.—C. E. DIONNE, *Quebec, Can.*